

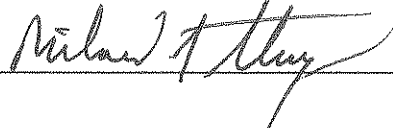
#15-01-00-0003

FS R1
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OCT 20 2014

REGIONAL FORESTER

Objection to Alternative 2 Modified Red Lodge Creek Project

1. Richard L. Thayer, 844 Lewis Ave., Billings MT 59101 406-855-6821
2. Signature: 
3. Greater Red Lodge Project, Traute Parrie, District Ranger, Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest
4. The USFS did not properly study the cumulative impact of the proposed Red Lodge Project and the Palisades Timber Sale which is adjacent and concurrent. If they would have taken the cumulative impact into consideration the USFS would have abandoned this plan since the Palisades Timber sale is already impacting 800 acres of adjacent land.
5. The USFS says the proposed project will increase plant species diversity, but exactly the opposite will occur. The current forest is made up of numerous species and various age trees. If logged as planned, the forest will be replaced primarily by lodgepole pine trees of all the same age. Thus species and age diversity will be reduced. The erroneous USFS concept that deciduous trees will spontaneously replace evergreen trees after logging is an unsubstantiated and unprofessional conclusion. The various tree species grow where they do because of soil type, soil pH and moisture conditions and logging the area will not change these basic conditions. This USFS concept of spontaneous diverse revegetation is not based on sound science.
6. The USFS concept of fire protection is valid only to the extent that any fuel removed will not be there to burn in the short term. The mere act of logging and increased human activity will increase the fire danger during the project. The last time the USFS attempted a controlled burn in this area it got out of control and a large group of local Luther ranchers had to come to the rescue of the USFS. The local residents who live adjacent to the proposed logging project all say that they would rather have the forest left alone and assume the personal risk of fire rather than the assured destruction of the ecosystem habitat and viewshed that will come with the proposed logging.
7. The project design improperly ignores habitat protection for endangered species such as Grizzly Bears, Wolverines, Lynx and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout all of which live in the immediate area.
8. This project is a waste of taxpayer dollars since it will not generate enough revenue to support the proposed logging and road building activity, it will only partially mitigate the long term fire danger, it will contribute to reduced forest diversity and contribute to erosion, spread of noxious weeds and will destroy endangered species habitat.
9. Resolution of my objection would be for the USFS to elect to take no action on the proposed Red Lodge Creek logging project.

10. All of these objections have previously been submitted to the Beartooth Ranger District and all were ignored. I did not receive any response either verbally or in writing to any of my objections.